GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:31
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006
GROWTH RATE IN AGRICULTURE
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of investment required in agriculture sector to achieve 8 per cent national growth rate during the 10th Five Year Plan;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for achieving the targeted growth rate in agriculture; and

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take to generate employment in agricultural sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 31 DUE FOR REPLY ON 20TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

(a): According to the Tenth Plan document of the Planning Commission, the amount of investment required in the agriculture sector during Tenth Five Year Plan is Rs.219.6 thousand crores at 2001-02 prices out of which public sector investment is Rs.132.2 thousand crores (i.e. 60.2 per cent). The overall GDP growth was envisaged at 8.1% during the 10th Plan.

(b)&(c): A series of initiatives through various schemes have been taken by the Government in the areas of increased credit coverage, irrigation expansion, crop diversification, marketing infrastructure, horticulture, extension services and storage facilities. Efforts are on to enhance production and productivity to 4% and to encourage farming as a remunerative profession. This process is being strengthened through farm mechanization, agri-clinics and agri- business centres. The areas for high investment include micro-irrigation comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission, having end-to-end approach. These initiatives are expected to generate employment in the sector apart from accelerating growth and productivity.